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CHILE: Human Rights Strategy

████████ //The Chilean Foreign Ministry appears to be making a bid to urge the ruling military junta to alter the public face of its policies if it wants better relations with the US. Other Chilean civilian and military officials █████ are increasingly interested in efforts to improve the nation's image abroad.//

████████ Foreign Minister Carvajal has approved a strategy paper stressing the importance of seeking a negotiated solution with Washington on the human rights issue. We do not know whether this text has reached President Pinochet.//

████████ //Although the Foreign Ministry document discusses the option of rejecting US policy as interventionist, its recommendation suggests that a fundamental normalization of relations depends on a Chilean government decision to relax its emergency powers.//

████████ //Resentment remains strong within the Chilean government toward US human rights policy, and hardliners can be expected to press their arguments against any concessions.

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Nevertheless, the apparent failure of Chilean efforts to convene a summit meeting to forge a joint human rights strategy among southern cone nations may have provoked sober reflection in Santiago.//

[REDACTED] //In any case, moderates in the government may hope to convince President Pinochet that easing present security restrictions would go a long way toward improving Chile's image and restoring much-needed economic assistance from abroad.//

[REDACTED] sentiment for gestures to improve Chile's international image has grown among leading military and government officials, including some in the army. While Pinochet's position does not appear threatened, he may decide that gradual liberalization is imperative if he is to retain the full support of key armed forces leaders.//

[REDACTED] //Meanwhile, September 11, the fourth anniversary of the military coup, is being mentioned frequently as an appropriate time to announce important political step. [REDACTED]